1. CALL TO ORDER
Deputy Mayor Shaiken called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building.

2. ROLL CALL
Present: Bruder, Schurin, Shaiken
Virtual: Ausburger, Berthelot, Fratoni (see early departure below), Coleman
Excused: Moran

3. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL
Mary Landeck, Town Sexton, and Keith Wilson, Chair of the Cemetery Advisory Board, spoke in support of the memo in the Council’s August 8, 2022 meeting packet recommending the expansion of the Gurley Cemetery.
Richard Hayes, Pleasant Valley Road, Manchester, CT, owner of 135-141 Storrs Road, Big Y shopping center, asked the Council to put the consideration of a panhandling ordinance on their agenda soon.

4. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER
Town Manager Ryan Aylesworth presented and discussed his written report. The report is available online at www.MansfieldCT.gov and is on file with the Town Clerk. In response to an inquiry from Councilor Schurin regarding the panhandling ordinance, Mr. Aylesworth reported that staff have been researching other communities with such ordinances and the item will be added to a future agenda. Mr. Coleman expressed concern over several construction reports on the new elementary school and asked who is overseeing the project. Mr. Aylesworth indicated several entities provide oversight and inspect for issues needing correction including architects, town building officials, and the owner’s project manager.

5. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS
None.

6. CONSENT AGENDA
A. Approval of Minutes
B. White Oak Condominiums Sewer Project Authorization Update
Ms. Berthelot moved and Mr. Coleman seconded to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed unanimously.
Motions passed by consent:
- To approve the July 25, 2022 regular meeting minutes.
- Move, effective August 8, 2022, to authorize Town Manager Ryan J. Aylesworth, to execute easement documents that authorize the use of a portion of Dunhamtown Forest for sanitary system improvements for the White Oak Condominium Association.
7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Plan for Pickleball Facility at the Mansfield Community Center (Item #8B, 07.25.22 Agenda)
Mr. Ayleworth provided a short review of the progress on the project to date and noted that a portion of the Town’s funding for the project is from ARPA funds. In response to a concern raised by Mr. Schurin, Mr. Aylesworth stated that there are multiple adaptive reuses of pickleball courts should they no longer be popular in the future.

Mr. Ausburger moved and Ms. Berthelot seconded, effective August 8, 2022, to authorize the Town Manager to execute a donor agreement and any other pertinent legal documents as prescribed by the Town Attorney between the Town of Mansfield and Mr. Michael Taylor that is substantially consistent with the draft presented, and further authorize the appropriation of $150,000 in funding from the Town’s ARPA allocation for the purpose of facilitating the siting and construction of a pickleball facility on the Mansfield Community Center parcel. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Pandemic Premium Pay for Town and School District Employees (Item #8C, 07.25.22 Agenda)
Mr. Aylesworth reported on the development of the premium pay program and explained the amount of the pay and the types of employees that would qualify. Mr. Schurin expressed concern that other Region 19 member towns are not contributing proportionately to the premium pay proposed for Region 19 employees. Mr. Ausburger and Mr. Shaiken expressed a desire for all qualified Mansfield residents to recieve premium pay. In response to Mr. Coleman’s concern that funding premium pay using PILOT funds is inappropriate and a preference to use ARPA funds instead, Mr. Shaiken explained that ARPA funds are not allowed to be used for this purpose and use of PILOT funds for this purpose is allowalbe.

Mr. Bruder moved and Mr. Schurin seconded, effective June 30, 2022 to transfer the $150,000 PILOT appropriation from the Legislative budget to the Transfer Out to CNR from the General Fund. Motion passed with Berthelot, Bruder, Schurin and Shaiken in favor and Ausburger, Coleman and Fratoni opposed.

Mr. Ausburger reiterated his support for premium pay for all qualified Mansfield residents and expressed his agreement with Mr. Coleman’s objection to using PILOT funds and preference to use ARPA funds for this purpose. Ms. Berthelot recalled that the Council had wanted to use ARPA funds but the Town Attorney advised that ARPA funds could not be used for this purpose. Mr. Shaiken added that PILOT funds are grant funds, are not considered tax revenue and are appropriate to use for a premium pay program.

Mr. Bruder moved and Ms. Berthelot seconded to table the rest of this discussion to the September 12th, 2022 meeting. Motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Schurin who voted against.

C. Proposed Committee on Committees Charge (Item #8G, 07.25.22 Agenda)
Mr. Bruder moved to send the proposed Committee on Committees charge back to the Committee on Committees in consideration of the recent legal opinion from the Town Attorney. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bruder moved and Mr. Schurin seconded to consider new business item 8B ahead of new business item 8A. Motion passed unanimously.
8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Update from New Mansfield Public Schools Superintendent
Superintendent Peter Dart shared his initial impressions, priorities, and goals for the school district. In response to questions, Mr. Dart shared how Mansfield has been handling the nationwide issues of losing teachers and student learning loss due to the pandemic and indicated that the issue of coliform contamination in the water at the middle school has been resolved and the water is monitored. Mr. Allen Corson, Director of Facilities Management, added that all state-required assessments of the water are conducted and there will be capital improvement funding requests forthcoming in relation to the middle school water system.

B. Water Testing at Southeast Elementary School
Mr. Bill Treitch, Deputy Director of Facilities, and Superintendent Peter Dart answered Council’s questions about water testing at Southeast Elementary School along with Lori Mathieu and Mandy Smith from the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) and Dave D’Onofrio from New England Water Utility Services.

Mr. Treitch and Mr. Dart explained the testing and mitigation strategies in place that kept children safe from any potential lead in the water at the end of the Southeast school year. Mr. D’Onofrio explained CT Water’s testing protocols and Ms. Mathieu indicated that lead is not typically seen in groundwater. Mr. Coleman expressed his concern about the location of the new school in proximity to the old landfill. DPH indicated they would take another look but that this would have been considered during the siting process and will share that report with the Council.

C. Implementation Plan for Arts Recovery Fund Program
[Mr. Fratoni left the meeting]

Executive Director Cynthia van Zelm presented the implementation plan for the Arts Recovery Fund Program.

Mr. Bruder moved and Ms. Berthelot seconded to authorize the Town Manager to move forward with implementation of an arts recovery program using $75,000 of ARPA funds as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Sunny Acres Park - Repairs to Basketball and Tennis / Pickleball Court
Director of Parks and Recreation Jay O’Keefe spoke to the needs and types of repairs at Sunny Acres Park.

Ms. Berthelot moved and Mr. Bruder seconded, effective August 8, 2022, to authorize the use of up to $35,000 of the $750,000 of ARPA funds previously conditionally approved for Parks, Recreation and Open Space Assets Improvements, for the purpose of completing repairs and upgrades to the basketball court and tennis/pickleball court at Sunny Acres Park. Motion passed unanimously.

E. WPCA, Schedule a Public Hearing for FY 2022/23 UConn and Willimantic Sewer Budget/Rates
Mr. Bruder moved and Mr. Schurin seconded that the Council recess as the Town Council and convene as the Mansfield Water Pollution Control Authority. Motion passed unanimously.
Mr. Bruder moved and Ms. Berthelot seconded, effective August 8, 2022, to schedule a public hearing for 7:00 p.m. at the Town Council’s regular meeting on September 12, 2022, to solicit public comment regarding the proposed sewer rates for FY 2022/23 that would be billed to users of the UConn and Willimantic sewer systems in the Town of Mansfield. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bruder moved and Mr. Ausburger seconded that the Council recess as the Mansfield Water Pollution Control Authority and reconvene as the Town Council. Motion passed unanimously.

9. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES
Mr. Shaiken reported that Finance Committee did not meet tonight but may have a special meeting at a later date.
Mr. Schurin reported that Personnel has not met but expects to issue the evaluation in September.
Mr. Bruder reported that the Committee on Committees will next meet in September.

10. DEPARTMENTAL AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS
None.

11. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS
A. EHHD COVID-19 Reports
B. J. Spears, President Eastbrook Heights Condo. Assoc., re: Thank You to MFD (07.24.22)
C. Cemetery Advisory Board memo re: Gurley Cemetery Expansion Recommendation (07.25.22)
D. Mansfield Downtown Partnership memo re: Responses from ARPA Local Business Fund Recipients (08.04.22)

12. FUTURE AGENDAS
• Gurley Cemetery Expansion
• PILOT money for other workers in town
• Construction oversight at Mansfield Elementary School

13. ADJOURNMENT
Mr. Bruder moved and Mr. Ausburger seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Antonia Moran, Mayor
Sara-Ann Chaine, Town Clerk